




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager 

DATE: November 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Response Regarding False Alarm Ordinance Revisions
(Resolution No. 20141211-108)

On December 11, 2014, the City Council approved Resolution No. [20141211-108](#), directing the City Manager to implement several staff recommendations to reduce the occurrence of false alarms and return with ordinance revisions for Council approval.

Since December 2014, the Austin Police Department (APD) has conducted extensive reviews of these recommendations to evaluate for continued feasibility, as there have been significant technological advances in the alarm system industry, and changes in the State laws governing alarm systems.

There were numerous challenges in bringing an ordinance back before Council, including, the highly complex process in ensuring the local ordinances amendments adhere to State laws related to alarms, ensuring alarm industry stakeholders are updated, and staff turnover within the Alarm Administration Unit that is within APD's Financial Services.

As indicated in my April 9, 2021 [memo](#) regarding Reimagining Public Safety efforts, after reviewing the APD Alarm Administration Unit's services, City Management recommended transferring the Alarm Administration Unit to the Development Services Department (DSD). Under DSD, the Alarm Administration Unit will continue to perform alarm permitting review and services for the public. On April 22, 2021 Council approved the transfer of this unit to DSD.

DSD staff will begin assessing whether ordinance revisions are necessary and will update Council accordingly.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
CMO Executive Team
Chief Joseph Chacon, Austin Police Department
Denise Lucas, Development Services Department Director